

# CITY DESK



## Downtown East-West Corridor Study

Creating community in our downtown is well on its way following the first public meeting held at Redmond City Hall on June 19. Approximately 40 residents and business owners reviewed and commented on a proposed draft for the downtown transportation system, which includes converting the existing one-way couplet of Cleveland Street and Redmond Way to two-way traffic.

Envisioning an economically-healthy, people-friendly downtown started with the Downtown Transportation Master Plan process in 2002.

Through this public process came the community's desire to build important downtown connections that would begin to shape an attractive social center.

"We are linking the pieces together to create a destination," explained Councilmember Pat Vache at the public meeting in June. Councilmember Hank Margeson described how other transportation projects are already happening to improve Redmond's downtown.

"This is not just a plan," stated Councilmember Margeson, "It's beginning to happen with recent changes on NE 83rd and NE 85th Street and with the new Downtown Transit Center." Groundbreaking for the Bear

Creek Parkway extension on August 14 was celebrated as another piece of the downtown puzzle.

City staff continue to gather comments about revitalizing downtown. So far, the majority of residents and business owners are anxious to see improvements to the pedestrian/bicycle environment in the heart of Redmond, while some are concerned about availability of parking. Almost everyone sees changing the one-way couplet to two-way traffic as a benefit to residents, businesses and newcomers to Redmond.

The next public meeting is scheduled for November 17 (see pg. 12 for details). In the meantime, one-on-one meetings with various boards,

commissions and business and property owners are helping City staff and project consultants come up with a more finely-detailed preferred layout that will include a construction schedule and cost estimates.

Presentations about the future of downtown are available to special interest groups upon request. Comments are always welcome by contacting Tricia Thomson at 425-556-2776 or [tthomson@redmond.gov](mailto:tthomson@redmond.gov) or Joel Pfundt at 425-556-2750 or [jpfundt@redmond.gov](mailto:jpfundt@redmond.gov). You can also get updates about the Downtown East West Corridor Study on the City website at [www.redmond.gov/connectingredmond/studies/dewcs.asp](http://www.redmond.gov/connectingredmond/studies/dewcs.asp).